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JPRS L/8777

21 November 1979

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 49/79)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

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AUSTRALIA

CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT FREMANTLE MAKE RECORD HEROIN HAUL

Drugs Aboard Cruise Ship

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Sep 79 p 1

[Text] Customs officers at Fremantle made the biggest heroin haul in Australian history yesterday when they seized 12kg of the drug from the Kota Bali.

The heroin, believed to have a street value of more than \$1 million, was hidden in a drum in the rear section of the ship.

The Kota Bali had just returned from a voyage to Bali.

About 25 customs officers were waiting at Fremantle when the ship berthed yesterday. They had received a tip from Singapore that the vessel could be carrying drugs.

The tip-off came several days ago from the Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau, which relayed the information to the Australian narcotics liaison officer in Kuala Lumpur.

Several members of the Kota Bali's crew were questioned after yesterday's seizure. The Singapore authorities were informed of the details.

The size of the haul is emphasised by the fact that a total of only 18kg of heroin was seized in Australia last year.

Before yesterday, 10kg of heroin had been seized in Australia this year.

Commonwealth officials said last night that the seizure highlighted the importance of interna-

tional co-operation in fighting the drug trade.

Conservative

The administrative head of the WA drug squad, Senior Inspector Des Ayres, said that \$1 million would be a conservative estimate of the heroin's value.

"Depending on the quality it could be much more," he said.

"If it is grade four heroin—the fine white powder and the most valuable form—and is 50 per cent pure, it could be worth up to \$10 million when broken down.

"If it is grade four and 95 per cent pure, which is not very likely, it would have a maximum value of \$19 million after being broken down for sale on the streets."

Inspector Ayres said it was almost certain that the heroin originated in the notorious Golden Triangle area that bordered Thailand, Burma and Laos.

Ninety-nine per cent of the heroin coming into Australia was from the Golden Triangle area, he said.

It was impossible to know whether the haul was intended for final collection in WA or the Eastern States.

Customs officers were still interviewing members of the Kota Bali's crew last night.

A spokesman for the Narcotics Bureau said that officers probably would be working fairly solidly in the ship till it was due to sail at 8 o'clock tonight.

The possibility of delaying the ship's departure would be considered this morning.

All the passengers were believed to have been cleared of involvement in the heroin.

The chief officer of the Kota Bali said that the vessel visited five ports on a round-trip holiday cruise. Bali was the main stop over.

Crew Kept Aboard Ship

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Sep 79 p 3

[Report from Cyril Ayris]

[Text]

The duty officer on the Kota Ball said yesterday that the ship's 130 crewmen would become violent if searches for drugs prevented them going ashore at Fremantle again.

The crew was confined to the ship throughout yesterday while customs officers searched the vessel for more heroin.

The Kota Ball was expected to sail last night.

The biggest heroin haul in Australian history was found hidden in a drum in an aft water tank on the ship on Tuesday.

The commissioner of the Federal Narcotics Bureau, Mr Harvey Bates, said in Canberra that the heroin weighed 14.2kg—2.2kg more than originally estimated.

He said that it had not yet been analysed but he expected it would be high quality heroin of between 60 and 80 per cent pure. He estimated its value at \$2 million.

However, State drug authorities say that \$50 million would be a more realistic value.

They said that the heroin would be greatly diluted then sold for \$150 a gram.

The Kota Ball duty officer, who would not give his name, said that the crewmen were angry at not being allowed ashore during the ship's visit to Fremantle.

"They accept it this time because there is not much they can do about it," he said.

"But if it happens at our next call I think they will become violent."

"This is a small ship and the men have not been ashore since the stop at Ball on September 20. Now they will be on board till they reach Singapore," he said.

The duty officer said that the captain was the only member of the ship's company who was allowed ashore yesterday.

Searched

The Kota Ball was searched for drugs on every trip before reaching Fremantle.

"These drugs were well hidden in a place which is rarely visited by the crew," he said.

"In future we will be doing a more thorough search of the ship".

He said that customs men had told him that the ship's sailing time could be delayed and crewmen could be held back for questioning if the customs officers thought it was necessary.

Customs officers used walkie-talkie radio sets in their search of the ship yesterday.

They climbed down ladders and into every dark corner in the vessel in case more drugs were hidden on board.

The drug haul was showed briefly to the press in Customs House yesterday morning.

Two narcotics agents refused to answer questions about the haul but referred the reporters to Mr Bates in Canberra.

Mr Bates said that it was unlikely that there would be any arrests in Fremantle.

The investigation was continuing in Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand as well as in Australia.

"It must be appreciated that Perth and Fremantle are on the direct route from South-East Asia for ships and aircraft and that they are obvious points of entry for drugs," he said.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

PRESS REPORTS CONCERN OVER USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

'Bill of Rights' for Patients

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Sep 79 p 5

[Text]

DRUG abuse of patients by medical people should be investigated by a tribunal and a bill of rights for patients should be set up, a federal parliamentary committee was told yesterday.

The suggestions came in hearings of the investigations by the Senate standing committee on social welfare into the use and abuse of medication available over the counter or on prescription.

The convenor and secretary of a new Melbourne group, the Patients Complaints Council, Mrs Molly Guthrie, called for easier access to medical files.

Mrs Guthrie said that after speaking on a radio program she had an avalanche of calls which showed a wide area of patient abuse.

She said the Patients Complaints Council had 50 members and had operated since February.

People reported to her and the council collected patients' complaints about drugs administered to them, but to get hard evidence it was necessary to have access to medical files.

Mrs Guthrie said a tribunal of medical, legal and lay representatives should be set up to investigate complaints.

Another new group, the National Frail and Aged Protection Society, also gave evidence.

Its convenor, Mrs May Jones, said the society at this stage consisted of a steering committee of 12 to form the organisation. She said the Government would be asked for financial help.

Mrs Jones said the society had statutory declarations from patients, their relatives, visitors and nursing aides.

She said people should be told of the properties and side-effects of drugs and there should be proper policing of their distribution and use.

Complete safety of drugs should be guaranteed, Mrs Jones said, and regular checks made of their results.

She said autopsies should be performed on people who died after medication, to check for drug abuse.

Effects of Methadone Curb

Melbourne THE AGE in English 27 Sep 79 p 13

[Report by Kate Dunstan]

[Text]

Heroin addicts undergoing treatment may be unable to work or study because of Health Commission restrictions on the use of methadone.

The drug, which is used as a heroin substitute in the treatment of addiction, must be administered daily and taken in front of doctors.

Health Commissioner Mr. Jack Evans said the discovery of patients with substantial stockpiles of the drug had led to the restrictions.

But for many the extra travelling to visit treatment centres every day will make normal working or studying almost impossible, parents and social workers have said.

The mother of one almost-rehabilitated addict, Mrs. Janice Ainslie, said her 24-year-old son would now find it almost impossible to continue his studies at RMIT.

He would have to travel to the drug dependence unit at the Austin Hospital in Heidelberg every day.

This would upset his time schedule for exams and his habits. It would have a marked psychological impact on him and others, she said.

"He has been given a chance to come back to life again and this is quite a blow," she said.

A spokesman for the hospital said the aim of the directive issued by the poisons section of the Health Commission was to prevent the drug going into illicit channels.

He said it was possible for some patients in extreme circumstances to have the drug administered by a pharmacist in their area.

"The major problem is that they have to trek out to Heidelberg."

"For students it is hard because it is expensive. But it's the greater good principle operating."

He said the regulations would affect all methadone blockade programmes, but the Austin programme was the only one operating in a public hospital.

Mr. Evans said the system was standard practice all over the world for methadone prescriptions.

"But something went wrong recently and it has been necessary to re-emphasise procedures," he said.

It was important to make sure the patient did not hoard, sell or traffic in the drug, he said.

The Minister for Health, Mr. Borthwick, said that the system was under review.

Dangers of Valium Use

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 28 Sep 79 p 24

[Text] Canberra: The Federal Minister of Health, Mr Hunt, was accused yesterday of having an attitude bordering on irresponsibility over the use of the drug valium for young children.

Senator Mason (AD, NSW) said he was appalled at a written reply he received to a question on notice which had claimed that last year 9118 prescriptions for a valium paediatric syrup had been written by doctors under the national health scheme.

Mr Hunt's reply agreed that numbers of prescriptions had been written for valium syrup for young children. It was up to the doctor to assess his patient's condition and determine whether valium syrup was needed.

Senator Mason said he had raised the matter as a result of strong indications in the United States that valium was an addictive drug.

DISCRETION

"I would not agree with Mr Hunt that in these circumstances it is perfectly all right to leave a complete discretion on the administration of valium to all doctors," he said.

"Some study should be made of the use of a drug strongly suspected of being addictive, especially on young children who are not old enough to determine their own course of action."

Senator Mason said he received some quite terrifying stories from people who had taken valium.

He was appalled that Mr Hunt plainly intended to allow valium to continue to be prescribed as an unrestricted pharmaceutical benefit.

CSO: 5300

AUSTRALIA

DRUGS COMMISSION REPORTED CRITICAL OF NARCOTICS BUREAU

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 25 Oct 79 p 3

[Report from Andrew Kruger]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — The Federal Royal Commission into drugs is believed to have expressed strong criticism about the command structure of the Federal Narcotics Bureau and to have cast doubts on its probity, in an interim report to the Government.

The Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr Fife, was preparing a submission to Cabinet on the future of the bureau, Government sources said yesterday.

The confidential interim report, prepared by the Royal Commission led by Mr Justice E. S. Williams, is believed to deal solely with the Narcotics Bureau and its relations with other arms of government.

It is believed to suggest there is evidence of corruption in the bureau and offers ways in which this may be countered.

In addition to pointing up weaknesses in the bureau's organisation and its chain of command, the report is understood to say narcotics agents are at a disadvantage fighting drug traf-

fickers equipped with equipment more modern than their own and using increasingly ingenious means of smuggling.

The Federal Government will not release the report on the recommendation of Mr Justice Williams, who said he felt that a number of the areas covered include confidential evidence and observations which should not be made public.

However, the final report, which is expected to be ready towards the end of the year, will include references to the Narcotics Bureau which will be made public.

The Government has had the interim report since it was presented to the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, on September 18.

It has delayed acting on it pending the completion of another report by representatives of four police forces, investigating allegations that a bureau officer was supplying confidential information to a drug ring.

They are trying to establish whether such information could have led to the murder of a New Zealand couple, Douglas and Isobel Wilson.

Their bodies were found in a sandy grave at Rye Beach, an isolated resort 100 kms south-east of Melbourne, on May 18 this year. They had been shot.

Ten days later, a Melbourne police source said the Wilsons had been detained by Brisbane police and Federal Narcotics Bureau agents in Queensland in mid-1978 in connection with the seizure of a large shipment of drugs organised by an Australasian ring.

The Melbourne source said that in a tape-recorded interview, the Wilsons had told the Brisbane and Federal officers that the drug ring had an "inside man" with access to the bureau's computer.

A week later, on June 1, the head of the bureau, Mr Harvey Bates, resigned when the Government ordered an inquiry into the Wilsons' allegations. He said he had not been consulted, the Government did not have all the facts of the issue and he objected to the form of the inquiry.

He was persuaded by Mr Fife to return to his post three days later, but the inquiry continued.

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AUSTRALIA

JUDGE CONCERNED OVER LACK OF ADDICT TREATMENT FACILITIES

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Sep 79 p 40

[Text] Mr Justice Brinsden said yesterday one of the problems of dealing with young drug-addicts in WA was that there was no institution where they could be sent for treatment.

He told the mother of a 20-year-old unemployed labourer that there were no options besides a fine, prison or probation.

The mother, Mrs Patricia Rossi, of Sydney, confirmed that her son had left New South Wales and come to WA to get away from the drug scene.

But she said she was associated with an organisation called GROW which tried to help young addicts and that there were treatment centres in New South Wales.

However, her son had formed a relationship with a lovely girl and was studying at technical college to become a cabinet maker, and wished to make his life in this State.

MORPHINE

Mrs Rossi was called to the witness box after a Supreme Court jury had convicted her son, Frank

Eric Rossi (20), unemployed labourer, of the Esplanade, South Perth, of possessing morphine at a house where he was then living in Waterloo Street, Joondanna, on May 24 this year with intent to sell or supply.

He had pleaded not guilty and said that the morphine was for his own use and that he was using about half a gramme a day.

An analyst's report said that the 0.99 of a gramme of grey granular material found by police in an envelope among linen in his wardrobe contained seven per cent morphine and 50 per cent caffeine.

Rossi was remanded on bail for a pre-sentence and medical report before sentencing.

Mr Justice Brinsden warned him that he had not made up his mind about whether or not to give him probation.

(Before Mr Justice Brinsden and a jury, Mr L. B. Robbins for the Crown, Mr J. Riler for Rossi.)

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AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY COURT TOLD HEROIN SMUGGLED IN BY MAIL

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 26 Sep 79 p 3

[Text]

A hundred envelopes containing heroin had entered Australia over the past 18 months, police alleged in Central Court of Petty Sessions yesterday.

Four men and four women were involved in a conspiracy to import heroin into the country, they said.

Before the court were: Desmond Alfred Michael Bennion, 29, unemployed, of Wilton Close, Doonside; Kenneth Graham Harrison, 21, labourer, and Cassandra Patricia Van Dyke, 18, of Waikanda Crescent, Whalan; Barry John Bennion, 31, mechanic, and Lynette Pamela Bennion, 30, domestic, of Sackville Street, Ingleburn; Wilma May Tyson, 24, no address given; Kerrie Ann Sue Eckford, 29, process worker, of Hughes Street, Cabramatta; and Terrence John Philip Williams, 24, unemployed, of Aitape Crescent, Whalan.

They were charged with having conspired together to import heroin between June 30, 1978, and September 24, 1979, at Sydney.

Williams was further charged with having four \$50 notes, 22 \$20 notes and six \$10 notes, suspected of being stolen or unlawfully obtained at Mt Druitt on September 24, 1979, supplying Indian hemp at Mount Druitt between January 1, 1979, and September 24, 1979; and pos-

sessing Indian hemp at Mount Druitt on September 24, 1979.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant K. Williams, told the court that Desmond Bennion and Kenneth Harrison were the prime movers in the alleged conspiracy.

He said they had made admissions to police officers about importing heroin in the mail.

Their counsel, Mr Michael Seymour, said that Desmond Bennion and Harrison denied the allegations.

He said they had been arrested in a Mount Druitt hotel on Monday.

Bennion had asked if he could get his father to ring his solicitor.

He alleged police then arrested Bennion's father and took him to the police station.

The father was later released without being charged.

Mr Seymour alleged that police had obstructed the defendants in their attempt to get legal advice.

"No record of interview was conducted," he said.

Mr J. Flynn, SM, set bail at \$10,000 for Desmond Bennion and Harrison, \$500 for Van Dyke, \$1,000 for Eckford, Tyson, Barry Bennion and Lynette Bennion, and \$3,000 for Terrence Williams.

He adjourned the matters to October 4 for mention.

In Blacktown Court of Petty Sessions yesterday, police said a 20-year-old Canberra woman was arrested at the home of Desmond Bennion on Monday and charged with two drug offences.

Detective J. V. Stanioch, of Mount Druitt Drug Squad, told the court that Jennifer Young, unemployed, of no fixed address, was found with a small amount of heroin after police spoke to her at the Doonside home.

She pleaded guilty to possessing heroin and Indian hemp.

She was remanded on \$500 bail to October 25 on the condition that she attend the Taralika Drug Centre at Canberra and become a resident there if so directed by the centre's superintendent.

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AUSTRALIA

NARCOTICS TASK FORCE ARRESTS SYDNEY HEROIN IMPORTERS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Sep 79 p 47

[Text.]

SYDNEY: A major drug ring importing heroin in the mail from Lebanon has been broken in a series of raids at Lethbridge Park, Sydney.

Nine people including five women, have been arrested by the joint drug task force.

The task force, composed of members of the Federal Narcotics Bureau and State police,

was only recently established.

The operation, which the police think has smashed the biggest drug-smuggling ring in Sydney, was the force's first major raid.

The police had received information through Interpol that heroin was being sent from Lebanon to six houses.

They watched people going to the houses to buy heroin.

They arrested a 27-year-old man as he left a house and seized a 56-gram packet of heroin.

At the same time other police arrested a woman and the police raided the six homes, where they seized a big amount of heroin.

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HASHISH OIL IMPORTERS--Two women and a man were each sentenced in the District Criminal Court yesterday to seven years' jail for importing cannabis resin oil. Loris Casarola, 23, his wife, Shahina Casarola, 24, and Concetta De Luca, 23, pleaded guilty to importing cannabis resin oil on May 8 and being in possession of cannabis resin oil. The crown alleged that the three swallowed condoms containing the drug before flying from Bombay to Sydney. Evidence was given that 1,104.9 grams of cannabis resin oil with an estimated street value of \$89,500 had been recovered. Judge Hicks said all three were residents of Italy who could be described as dropouts from the educational system. Judge Hicks fixed a non-parole period of three years in each case. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 29 Sep 79 p 25]

DRUG DOGS AT AIRPORTS--Canberra.--Drug detection dogs will be introduced on trial at Sydney Airport today, the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Mr Fife, has announced. He said yesterday that the dogs would be used to help screen international passengers' hand luggage as part of a campaign to crack down on drug smuggling. The dogs are being brought in for a similar trial at Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne. They might also be introduced at Brisbane, Perth and Darwin Airports, Mr Fife said. The use of dogs at Sydney and Melbourne would be closely assessed. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 24 Sep 79 p 4]

JAIL FOR HEROIN--A 20-year-old apprentice motor mechanic was gaoled for two years yesterday for possession of heroin with intent to sell or supply. Dean Victor Morris of Roberts Road, Subiaco, must serve a minimum of eight months before parole. He had pleaded guilty before Mr Justice Smith in the Supreme Court last month to the possession of six paper vials of heroin on May 10 this year. He said that it had been bought on credit from another man. Mr Justice Smith said it had been submitted that Morris was a registered heroin addict and was selling the heroin to support his own habit. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 25 Sep 79 p 9]

ENGLISHMAN JAILED--An Englishman convicted of having brought 13.365 kg of hashish into Australia in a false-bottomed trunk was sentenced in the Criminal Court yesterday to 10 years' jail. Mr Justice Connolly imposed the sentence--equal to the heaviest ever imposed in Queensland for a drug offense--

on David John Vick, 20, of London. He said Vick had engaged in the "bare-faced smuggling into Australia of a very large quantity of hashish. A jury convicted Vick of having imported more than a trafficable quantity of hashish and of having had the hashish, a prohibited import, in his possession. Mr Justice Connolly sentenced Vick, who had pleaded not guilty, to 10 years' jail on each charged. The terms are concurrent. Mr Justice Connolly said Vick, a relatively young man, with no other convictions, and with no addiction, had come into "this filthy trade" for easy money. Mr Justice Connolly said he had to take into account not only the attitude of Parliament, but also "the notorious problem that the pushing of these drugs creates for the youth of this country." [Excerpts] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 21 Sep 79 p 15]

NARCOTICS TASKS TO FEDERAL POLICE--Canberra, 6 Nov (AFP)--The Australian Narcotics Bureau was today abolished and its functions taken over the newly formed Australian Federal Police. The dramatic action follows a Royal Commission report into drug trafficking which came to the conclusion that the Narcotics Bureau was inefficient and inept. The Royal Commission was asked last July to look specifically at the Narcotics Bureau after allegations that the bureau had been infiltrated by drug syndicates. The acting prime minister, Mr Douglas Anthony, announced to parliament that the government had accepted the Royal Commission's major recommendation that the Narcotics Bureau be disbanded. "The Australian Federal Police will have the responsibility for decision in the seizure, arrest and prosecution of drug offenders on either side of the customs barriers," he said. The Federal Police will also be given powers to intercept mail and use listening devices for the pursuit of drug offenders only. [Text] [OW061019 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 6 Nov 79 OW]

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BURMA

BURMESE PAPER NOTES GOVERNMENT'S DRUG SUPPRESSION CAMPAIGN

Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 13 Oct 79 p 4 BK

[Editorial" Combating Narcotic Drugs"]

Excerpt] The report of the Council of Ministers presented at the fourth meeting of the second People's Assembly states that the people's police force, under the guidance and leadership of the party and councils, is working in accordance with the resolution passed at the fourth meeting of the first people's assembly calling on all the people to participate in the national task of making more effective and successful the suppression of narcotic drugs which can cause national atrophy.

The report of the Council of Ministers contains in detail the action undertaken in the first half of 1979 to suppress narcotic drugs. Concerning the destruction of poppy plantations in 1978-79 poppy season, the report says that under "Operation Autumn," the people's police force with cooperation from the regional police units destroyed poppy plantations in the "white areas" [regions free from insurgency] ; in "brown areas," the task was carried out in cooperation with regional police units as well as with people's armed forces; and in "black areas" [insurgent infested region], the people's armed forces, under guidance and leadership of the regional party and councils concerned, launched military operations to destroy poppy plantations. In carrying out the tasks, cooperation was also obtained from the people in the regions concerned.

During "Operation Autumn," almost 4,000 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed in Shan and Kachin States and Sagaing, Magwe and Mandalay Divisions. Marihuana plants were also destroyed in three states and divisions by regional police units working in cooperation with local people and under the guidance and leadership of the party and councils.

In taking action against narcotic drug trafficking, plans were laid down systematically to take action mainly against drug dealers. In the first 6 months of this year, more than 600 kilograms of narcotic drugs were seized and about 1,900 cases were brought to trial in court.

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BURMA

RANGOON POLICE MAKE OPIUM ARRESTS

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 29 Oct 79 p 5 BK

[Text] Rangoon, 28 Oct--Acting on information, Station Commander Sub-Inspector U Aye of the Crimes Prevention Squad of the Rangoon Division People's Police Force, accompanied by some witnesses, searched 55-year old U Shwe Baw of No 85 19th Street on 24 October and seized 10 packages of opium refuse, worth 10 kyats each, hidden under his right thigh.

Acting on U Shwe Baw's testimony, the police arrested more people who were linked with the opium refuse ring in Latha township. They seized 4 packages of opium refuse worth 10 kyats each from 61-year old Ah Fong who was found at the foot of the staircase of the building, a bottle opium refuse from 56-year-old Law Le In living at Chinese temple, a package of opium refuse worth 50 kyats from an unidentified Chinese near the traffic light on Latha Street and 2 packages of opium refuse weighing about .5 tical [100 ticals equal 3.6 lbs] each from the pocket of the underpants of 67-year-old Tan Ma Kwan of Latha Street whom they located at Sinmin Teashop on Mahabandoola Street. They also seized 14 small and large packages of opium refuse hidden in a steel trunk at the Chinese temple where Tan Ma Kwan lives.

Latha police have taken action against them under Sections 6 (B), 10 (B) and 14 (D) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. Total weight of the opium refuse was about 41 ticals and worth about 4,100 kyats at local market. It is said that the opium refuse was originally distributed by Si Taing of the Chinese temple who died about 7 months ago.

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BURMA

BRIEFS

DRUGS ON KALEWA BUS--Tamu, 12 Oct--Acting on information, the personnel of Kalewa Customs Department searched Kalewa-Tamu bus for the second time at a place beyond the Kalewa bus terminal on 5 October and seized some heroin in a big bottle hidden in a pillow of a passenger's bedroll. They also seized a package of gems from a woman passenger. Both of them were arrested and action has been taken against both of them. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 18 Oct 79 p 4 BK]

ARREST IN TAUNGGYI--Taunggyi, 17 Oct--Sub-Inspector U Tun Myint and his party of the Narcotic Drugs Suppression Squad of the Shan State People's Police Force searched the house of Daw Ohn Myint at No MA/76, Cherry Road, Taunggyi, on 16 October and seized from two visitors--Ko Ye Myint of Hawgon quarter, Nyaungshwe, and Than Shein of Paungga village in Thegon township--20 grams of heroin worth 1,200 kyats. Action has been taken against the three of them under Sections 6 (B), 10 (B) and 14 (D) [of the Narcotic Drugs Law]. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 26 Oct 79 p 4 BK]

WEST MERGUI ARREST--West Mergui, 21 Oct--Sub-Inspector U Myo Myint and his team of the Myomya People's Police Station in Mergui, accompanied by ward people's councillors, searched the house of U Kyee Hlaing in Myitnge quarter, Mergui, yesterday and arrested U Kyee Hlaing and Maung Willy along with some heroin and paraphernalia. Charges have been filed against them under Section 6 (B) and 14 (D) [of the Narcotic Drugs Law]. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 27 Oct 79 p 6 BK]

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JAPAN

BRIEFS

MORE DRUGS FROM KOREAN SOURCE--Fukuoka, 31 Oct (KYODO)--Police Wednesday seized about seven kilograms of stimulant drugs, worth about Yen 2.1 billion in street value, which had been allegedly smuggled from South Korea. From a confession of Pak Nam-yong, 60, who has been arrested, police discovered the drug at a parking lot near Pak's home here. This increased the amount of stimulant drugs seized by police in the case to 10 kilograms, worth about Yen 3 billion. Police believed that the South Korean fish transport ship No. 1 Kimo-ho reached Hakata Port from Masan, near Pusan, carrying the stimulant drugs among oysters and that the crewmen delivered the drugs to Pak last Friday. Police have arrested one crewman and were looking for another. [Text] [OW311423 Tokyo KYODO in English 1314 GMT 31 Oct 79 OW]

DRUG SMUGGLING ARRESTS--Urawa, Saitama Pref., 2 Nov (KYODO)--A Japanese couple and a Korean crewman have been turned over to the public prosecutor's office here on charges of smuggling a total of 4 kilograms of a stimulant drug with a street value of about Yen 1.2 billion into Japan. Mitsue Cho, 41, unemployed and with no fixed residence, and her common-law husband Kunio Nakazato, 35, allegedly bought the stimulant drug for Yen 5 million per kilogram from Kwak Wan-kon, crewman of a Panamanian freighter. Police said the freighter had berthed at Japanese ports seven times since last December. [Text] [OW021133 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 2 Nov 79 OW]

STIMULANT DRUGS SEIZED--Fukuoka, 31 Oct KYODO--Police Wednesday seized about seven kilograms of stimulant drugs, worth about yen 2.1 billion in street value, which had been allegedly smuggled from South Korea. From a confession of Pak Namyong, 60, who has been arrested, police discovered the drug at a parking lot near Pak's home here. This increased the amount of stimulant drugs seized by police in the case to 10 kilograms, worth about yen 3 billion. Police believed that the South Korean fish transport ship No 1 Kimo-ho reached Hakata Port from Masan, near Pusan, carrying the stimulant drugs among oysters and that the crewmen delivered the drugs to Pak last Friday. Police have arrested one crewman and were looking for another. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 31 Oct 79 OW]

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LAOS

SHIFT FROM OPIUM CULTIVATION, CULTURAL CHANGES NOTED IN PHONG SALLY HILLTRIBES

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 17 Sep 79 p 2

[Article by Litthi Sisouvong: "A Mountaintop Filled With New Life"]

[Excerpts] It began to rain this morning, a time when the fog completely covered the ground, but at this time, little by little the sun began to break through again. In reality the climate of [Meuang] Phong Saly District changes most rapidly; in one day it can change 10-20 times and one who is not used to it can surely get sick.

It was on this day that our group went to visit Ban Pa Kha village about 80 kilometers away from the town of Phong Saly. The location of the village is in a high altitude area. The roadway was pretty steep if one looked down to the [Houai] Nam Tin Phou stream. However, when we got out of the car, we still had to climb up a steep hill, not easy by any means. The local cadre who accompanied us said: "The fact is that most of our Lao Soung folks usually prefer to locate their villages and homes on mountains like this."

Ban Pa Kha can be considered to be a remote area replete with many hardships, it being most difficult to mix with society to draw from others' experiences, or in short, it is a village located a long way from progress, but what is most noticeable is that it is fresh with a beautiful nature. There are ducks and chickens in profusion, but the area is clean. From each house, they have dug a small trench to drain off the waste water. The new lives of the Lao Soung Ko [tribal minority] in Ban Pa Kha began when their village was liberated. Under the just and correct leadership of the revolutionary administrative authorities desired by them, the Ko people of Ban Pa Kha have turned from a backward, superstitious way of thinking and are determined to study and learn the policies of the party and state, to study politics, books, science and technology.

In the past, the areas of fields of the Lao Ko folks had a red, yellowish hue and were white with the flowers of the opium poppy. Now, they are beautiful green with rice. In Phong Saly Province it is most difficult

to find plains areas in which to cultivate rice, but the people of [Mauang] Phong Saly District were determined to make terraces in the mountains for rice cultivation. However, presently most of the people in Phong Saly engage in crop cultivation. But in doing so, they have turned from the slash and burn method which severely destroyed forests to that of planting and plowing fields called "stable fields." This is also the way it is with the Ko people of Ban Pa Kha.

At the same time, by accident, our gaze fell upon a group of tiny huts which were set up in a row outside the fence of the village. Now, these tiny huts had all been abandoned and these were only the traces of what had been a very painful past. Comrade Sa Seu, a Lao Soung Ko tribesman on the Phong Saly Provincial Party Committee, told me that those huts were for the daughters in line with the custom of our Lao Ko tribe. Parents with a mature daughter had to build a hut outside the village for the daughter to sleep in and so young men could come. But in the event the daughter became pregnant, she would be expelled from the village. When the baby was born, everyone in the village would burn the child with hot fire-pokers until the infant died. Moreover, the old regime also shaped many backward so-called "traditions": primarily those like males having the right to take many wives and the cry of a frog being a Lao Ko spirit which would not let them go down to the lowlands to cultivate wet rice. However, through struggle, study and training, and a clear understanding of the party and state policy, the former miserable, cruel and barbaric society endured by the Lao Ko tribespeople has been gradually abolished following the plan of the new regime until now the Lao Ko folks of Ban Pa Kha village are left with a happy, new life.

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SRI LANKA

CRACK DRUG UNIT CREATED TO COMBAT HIGH VOLUME OF IMPORTS

Colombo WEEKEND in English 21 Oct 79 p 1 BK

[Text] A special narcotic intelligence unit comprising handpicked officers of the Police Narcotics Bureau, Customs and Immigration is to be set up at the Colombo airport Katunayake shortly.

This decision taken by the Deputy Minister of Defence T. B. Werapitiya at the recent National Drug Advisory Board Conference, comes in the wake of the "WEEKEND INSIGHT" exposure of September 30 headlined 'Narcotics,' Lankan Connection."

According to a senior police officer, members of this unit are to receive specialised training in narcotics intelligence at the hands of American and Canadian experts from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Canadian Mounted Police.

The unit which will be fed with the latest intelligence reports from Inter-pol will monitor the movements of known drug traffickers and also carry out on-the-spot checks at the airport.

This move has been necessitated by the influx of large quantities of hashish, opium and other narcotic drugs. According to experts Sri Lanka is now well on the road to becoming a major transit point for narcotics smuggling.

Officers of this unit are to be assisted by specially trained narcotics dogs which are to be permanently stationed at the airport.

Modern drug identification kits presently being effectively used abroad for quick preliminary test of suspected substances too are to be supplied by the Colombo Plan Bureau.

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THAILAND

GEN PHAO INTERVIEWED ON NARCOTICS POLICY

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 30 Jun 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] The secretary of the Narcotics Suppression Board is preparing draft legislation on confiscation of property of narcotics traffickers for submission to the government in the near future. At the present time narcotics circles throughout the world are in turmoil and heroin prices have risen greatly. In the future all narcotics addicts will be taken to Ko Chang for a period of psychological training.

Yesterday (28 June) Mr Harbibes, director of the Australian Narcotics Suppression Department, and party paid a farewell call on Police Major General Phao Sarasin, secretary of the Thai Narcotics Suppression Board. After their departure Maj Gen Phao, in an interview with BAN MUANG, said that this is the first year that Australia is providing aid to the narcotics suppression efforts of Thai officials amounting to 4 million baht, communications equipment, vehicles, and the sending of experts to assist the growing of substitute crops.

Regarding results of suppression work in the past year, the secretary stated that the Narcotics Suppression Board had captured major figures from several organizations in the northern and southern regions and in the metropolis of Bangkok. Last year's weather was extremely dry and caused poppy growing to be unproductive. As a result, this year narcotics, particularly heroin, in the northeastern region were very high in price and market shortages have occurred which have thrown narcotics organizations into turmoil throughout the world. Next year more Narcotics Suppression Board officials will be out working in the provinces with a view to suppressing the big narcotics traffickers.

Regarding operating problems or obstacles, Maj Gen Phao said that officials of various government elements still do not give sufficient cooperation to the suppression effort. If officials of all elements saw the importance of the suppression effort, he believes that the number of secret traffickers in narcotics would certainly be less than it is now. As for the frequent reports that police officers themselves are accomplices of narcotics traffickers the secretary stated that no matter who

traffics in narcotics including military and police they will be arrested because there are good police officers and there are bad ones and corrective action must be taken. At the present time neighboring countries and governments have great interest in Thailand's narcotics suppression effort.

In reply to a question about whether the law would be changed to increase punishments for narcotics traffickers, Maj Gen Phao said that the Narcotics Suppression Board is drafting legislation to confiscate the property of narcotics traffickers 1 month after their arrest. The accused must explain how their property was obtained. If they cannot it will be confiscated by the state and the money derived therefrom will be used for subsequent suppression operations. Australia and the United States have long used laws to confiscate property and they are considered to be effective. Singapore in particular has very strict laws. Possession of 15 grams of narcotics is punishable by death. Thus narcotics have been forced out to the Philippines and Australia. Our country should revise some laws to make them stricter in order to reduce the number of narcotics traffickers. As for reduction of sentences after the court has made its decision there should be no pardon based on an appeal by the individual to the Penitentiary Department but what benefits there would be is not yet known.

Our reporter asked about numerous sources of narcotics in Bangkok making the youth of our nation into drug addicts. The secretary acknowledged that in Bangkok there are many major sources but that arrests must be based on evidence so the accused do not slip free. As for preventing school children and students from becoming drug addicts, that is the duty of the Ministry of Education and the Universities Bureau. At present textbooks in all curricula contain information about narcotics.

Our reporter also asked about what kinds of results there have been in treating drug addicts. Maj Gen Phao replied that treatment has cured very few. Doctors expect that on the average a drug addict who returns home after being treated will abstain from taking drugs for only 32 days because it is deeply ingrained in mind and body and it is very difficult to change this. At the present time the Narcotics Suppression Board is considering taking all drug addicts to Ko Chang for psychological indoctrination in a clean air setting. When they are cured they can return to pick up their lives. The provincial governor has already responded that there is sufficient fresh water for them to live there.

In conclusion the secretary mentioned that, besides proposing the legislation mentioned above, the Narcotics Suppression Board will propose legislation concerning drug addicts which would set up a board which would have the power to arrest and send any drug addict discovered before the courts for sentencing without having to take the time for a police officer to sit down and make out case paperwork. This is because currently the police are arresting 24,000 drug addicts a year.

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THAILAND

KHUN SA DISCUSSES TRADE GOALS

Hamburg STERN in German 11 Oct 79 pp 48-53

/Report by Erich Follath/

/Text/ 'Snow' is being burned: a Thai soldier is throwing cases full of narcotics into a fire. The government claims to have burned several hundred million dollars' worth of captured heroin in this action in February 1979--a show intended to convince the world of Thai eagerness in fighting drugs. But many foreign observers doubt whether all the cases were actually filled with heroin.

He had promised us a fine hunt--a hunt "sure to contain a lot of stuff," 1st Lt Suwat Pirarak said.

But then, as we circled over the jungle for 3 hours, rising again and again in our helicopter like a hawk looking for prey, only to dive down to the treetops the very next moment, there was nothing--not a soul, no smugglers, no stuff. Only an endless rain forest. Nothing but green.

Nothing, that is, until First Lieutenant Pirarak discovered the trail, a winding narrow beaten trail rising along one of the thousand hills in this godforsaken area--and the caravan on the trail. About 20 men and 6 or 7 heavily laden mules.

Pirarak pushed open the helicopter door. The pilot comes down almost vertically. The soldiers beside us cock their weapons. One shot, and then another. With lightning speed, the smugglers chase their animals into the bush. As the helicopter comes up again after its dive, the trail is empty. Pirarak curses. "Quick," he says. "Land--but fast!"

We go down at the next clearing. The men of the Thai Border Police fan out toward the south, while others comb through the area around the jungle trail. There is no trace of the caravan any longer. But we discover something else: at a small stream, right in the jungle, a "heroin plant" of the smugglers, a hut covered with palm leaves, with a large round kettle and chemicals for

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processing raw opium into heroin. Ten kilograms of the sticky brown sap yield a kilogram of white heroin "snow." There is a warm sweetish odor in the air.

In a corner of the hut there are guns and broad-brim hats. Behind a wooden partition stand seven bags full of white powder. The soldiers burn down the hut, along with the heroin--7 kilograms of it. It represents the year's harvest of one farmer, which would not have yielded him much more than 2,000 deutsche marks but would be worth about 4.5 million deutsche marks in the streets of Europe.

There is no other business anywhere which offers such profit margins.

So people will put up with a lot to be able to sell the stuff. Once it reaches Bangkok, it is shipped on very fast, generally by air. Some people swallow small plastic bags of heroin and quickly eject them again in the country of destination in the process of digestion. Some put them immediately into their anus, circumventing customs control in this way.

Transport by sea is also successful. In the Bay of Bengal a "mother ship," equipped by the narcotic syndicates operating throughout the world, lies in constant readiness in international waters to take the hot merchandise from the small smugglers' boats.

The stuff, originating in the "golden triangle"--the border area between Laos, Burma and Thailand--is inundating Europe. And the FRG is the leading heroin country. No longer London or Amsterdam, but Frankfurt is the biggest place for trading drugs. Nowhere else are there as many drug addicts, and nowhere else do so many drug addicts give themselves the final "golden shot." In the first 10 months of this year as many as 400 persons have already died from heroin in the FRG.

The Poison Crosses the Border in Golden Buddhas

The least blame for this attaches to the mountain peoples of the Meo, Yao, Akha and Lisu who inhabit the "golden triangle." For these 30,000 people, whose lebensraum is about as large as the FRG, the cultivation of opium--yielding poppy has been a matter of course for generations--and the only possibility of making a living. Sowing takes place in September, harvesting in February. By then the poppy blossoms have turned into hard-skin seed capsules. With a three-incision knife the women scratch the green capsules. The milky sap that comes out is allowed to dry on the plant overnight. In the morning, the liquid, now turned brown--raw opium--is scratched off. Old men, women, even children smoke the sweetish poison in long-stem pipes. But only a tiny amount is consumed by them themselves.

The soil of the jungle yields a good poppy harvest for 10 to 12 years; in the case of rice cultivation it is already exhausted after 2 or 3 years. When the poppy harvest ceases to be worthwhile, the mountain peoples move on, burning down forests in order to gain soil for new plantations.

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The traders send caravans up to them into the mountains. While it is still there, the narcotic is hidden in golden buddhas and thus smuggled across the border. The smugglers run no risk there: Thai law forbids the cutting open of sacred images, even in looking for heroin.

Babies Are Killed in Order to Smuggle Heroin

Though smuggling from one country to another in Southeast Asia is comparatively free of danger, Thai police recently made a gruesome discovery. Gangsters had bought babies from impoverished parents, killed them and filled the hollowed bodies with little bags of heroin. Within the 12 hours of the murders--the natural color of the skin remains preserved that long--they then took the "sleeping babes-in-arms" across the border.

Reports about successes in fighting narcotics are rare. It does happen that a German tourist is arrested because he was about to send 4 grams of heroin to his girlfriend in Stuttgart in an airmail letter or that a smuggler is caught at a roadblock or that a traders' meetingplace in a bar is cleaned out, but "that is no more than a drop in the bucket," a high government official in the Thai capital of Bangkok tells us resignedly. "We have to attack the problem at the root and smash the big syndicates. Even better, we have to persuade the mountain tribes to cease planting poppy. But if our politicians were honest, they would have to say, 'Actually we do not want that to happen at all.'"

Every 'Opium King' With His Own Private Army

The Thai government, which officially has embarked on an out-and out fight against planting, trading and consuming narcotics in Thailand, actually, for political reasons, is interested in the status quo in the Thai-Burmese-Laotian triangle. For more than 20 years Bangkok has put up with "opium kings" operating in the impenetrable jungle with their private armies. The sole proviso is that they must not proceed against the central power of the Thai government. Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan, too, who announced in 1977 that his government would no longer put up with the tacit cooperation with the narcotic rebels, has retreated in the meantime. The private armies prevent communist guerrillas from invading northern Thailand. And since in western Thailand, on the border with Kampuchea, refugees and communist infiltration are cause for concern as it is, Kriangsak would like to avoid the creation of another front.

We are en route to one of the feared "opium kings," to Mae Salong. For 3 hours, the heavy Japanese cross-country vehicle has been struggling up the jungle trail. The small villages of the mountain tribes are located far apart. At the entrances to the huts there hang skulls of animals or dried ears of corn--fetishes intended to ward off evil spirits. The women wear heavy silver jewelry and chains made of bird's feathers, seashells and monkey's teeth. They wave after us.

The Smugglers' Village in the Jungle--Coca-Cola at the End of the World

Then the green jungle gathers over our heads again. For hours on end, we see

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nothing but dense bamboo, wild banana plants and blue-yellow butterflies. Their peace disturbed by the engine noise, monkeys jump up, parrots flutter away excited, and one can hear the cooing of a green pigeon from the bush.

Mae Salong is a surprise--a model village at the end of the world. The long main street is clean, the shops are chock full of goods; the men we come across wear Seiko wristwatches, and there is even Coca-Cola. The village, a few kilometers from the Burmese border, is the headquarters of an army which received a "devastating" blow 30 years ago--the army of Chiang Kai-shek.

In 1949 the main armed forces of the Chinese Nationalists had fled from Mao's victorious forces to the Island of Taiwan, but some troops had gone overland to Burma and Thailand. Not being accepted as refugees there, they remained underground and in the wild mountainous jungle pursued the only trade they knew--the use of arms. The tightly organized forces demanded road tolls from the jade traders and smugglers in narcotics and soon took over the entire heroin trade. Yee Tien-lwi, onetime deputy commander of Chiang Kai-shek's Fifth Army and now mayor of Mae Salong, receives us in his spacious house. He offers us tea and Chinese pastries. "It is a long time ago that we offered the traders our protection. We were never interested in what they were transporting. In 1971 we gave up the business." And today? The 68-year-old man smiles and pours us some more tea from a large copper kettle. "How is the tea?" he asks, evading an answer. "Do you know that the best tea in the world grows here?"

The Opium King is Camouflaged as a Trader in Tea

Yee Tien-lwi does not like to talk about narcotics. "If you find a single poppy plant here, an opium pipe, a gram of heroin, show it to me," he says, faking indignation well. Then he leads us to the tea plantations at the edge of the village. The largest fields were planted in 1975. Tea plants take 5 years to yield tea. So where did the amazing wealth of the people of Mae Salong come from?

In the evening, as it gets dark, shadows flit through the narrow streets of the Chinese village. There are armed guards at Yee's house. Busy negotiations are being held in the only bar of the place. In the morning I see four elegantly clad Chinese, and a Land Rover is parked in front of the mayor's house. I ask the villagers where the strangers are from. No one answers. The major too excuses himself, sending word that he is away with business partners. The "business partners" do not exactly look like tea buyers.

In the area they control, the Chinese-in-exile have their own administration, their own schools and, in addition to their well-equipped small army, also their own police.

Actually the Chinese are only No 2 in the narcotic trade. There is yet another private army in Thailand, even more unscrupulous and militant--the "Shan United Army." The Shan are a small mountain people which has been fighting for an

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independent state of its own between Burma and Thailand since World War II.

Their chief is Khun Sa, locally known as "king of the golden triangle." Drug experts in Bangkok estimate that he controls 40 percent of the heroin trade in this region. He turns over about 300,000 tons of raw opium--enough to supply 750,000 heroin addicts for a year.

'A Year's Opium Harvest for 10 Million Dollars'

Khun Sa does not want any correspondents to visit him. As recently as a few years ago he was still ready to answer the questions of anyone visiting him in his "palace" near the Thai Province of Chiang Rai. But then this did turn out to be too much for the government in Bangkok. It expelled the "king" and his retinue of 3,000 men--well-equipped soldiers throughout--threatening to throw him in jail if he touched Thai soil again. Khun Sa went underground in Burma--but not for long. Today he holds forth in Ban Hin Taek, a jungle hole far away from any jungle trails, 5 kilometers within the Thai border.

After walking for 3 days, we reach the Shan's headquarters, consisting of a few wooden houses, a Buddhist monastery and a mansion. A man in uniform takes our passports in front of the mansion. Some minutes pass. Forgetting his reluctance to receive reports, Khun Sa has us come in.

His face is weatherbeaten, his eyes are deep set, and his long black hair comes down far over the collar of his uniform. He wears the green uniform of his "Shan United Army." He proudly introduces himself: "I am the general of a regular army. We are fighting for a Shan state independent of Burma and Thailand. We already control more than one-third of Burma."

Khun Sa offers us cigarettes. He laughs because we hesitate. "This is not stuff," he assures us. "Go ahead and take them."

I ask him whether he does not have any scruples about talking about the "freedom of his Shan people" while, on the other hand, being responsible for the slow death of hundreds of thousands of addicts throughout the world. "This is not the way to look at it," the opium king says. "First, we do not ourselves plant the narcotic but only get it on its way. Secondly, we do not turn anyone into an addict but only cover the need which apparently exists with you in the West. And, thirdly, we were forced into this drug trade because nobody in the free world gives any money for our freedom struggle--not the United Nations either."

In the evening he has us over for a pineapple schnapps. In front of his mansion pigs are grunting, and chickens are scratching in the dirt. The "Music Corps" of the Shan revolutionaries plays Shan national songs, and soldiers dance. Khun Sa tells how he started in the opium trade as early as 18, how he once was arrested in Burma and only got out of jail again because his people had abducted high Soviet military advisers and offered them in exchange. He takes particular pleasure in reporting about his campaign against Chiang Kai-shek Chinese 12 years ago. At that time he defeated the Chinese Nationalists,

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his competitors in the narcotic trade, in a regular battle, thus gaining the confidence of opium farmers and heroin smugglers. Since then he has been "No 1."

At midnight Khun Sa takes me aside and says: "Please write that I am making an offer to the Western world. Being short of cash, I will sell the whole opium harvest of this year for 10 million dollars. If you want it--the CIA, or whoever--you can save yourself a lot of trouble with 10 million."

The UN Financial Aid Remains Ineffective

It is unlikely that anyone in the West will accept the offer of the opium king.

Nor is it likely that the attempt of the United Nations to offer the mountain peoples an alternative for planting poppy will have any appreciable success in the near future. So far, in only 15 of the 500 villages in the Golden Triangle, with the help of the United Nations, soya and ornamental flowers for export are being planted instead of opium-yielding poppy. As yet an opium harvest is many times more lucrative than one of gladiolas.

So the Golden Triangle for the time being will remain what it is now--a paradise for camouflaged freedom fighters and regular bandits, a playground for the flipped out and hard boiled, unchecked by the governments of the three countries of Thailand, Burma and Laos, and neglected by all the world because supposedly there are more important, more pressing political problems.

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THAILAND

DRUG SUSPECT CLAIMS TO BE RELATIVE OF SAMAK

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 6 Aug 79 pp 1, 16

[A shorter version of this report was published in JPRS L/8671, 20 September 1979, FOUO 40/79, of this series, p 31]

[Text] Some 10 million baht worth of raw opium seized. The suspect claimed to be Mr Samak Sunthoravej's younger brother and offered a 50,000 baht bribe to avoid arrest. Police said they would not take it even if it were 500,000 baht; ends up in jail.

Reports from Tak Province yesterday (5 August) are that an investigation by Pol Lt Col Cha-on Klaiklueng, Tak Province Highway Patrol police inspector and Pol Capt Somkid Polprasit disclosed that there would be illegal opium trafficking in a Ford sedan, corn cob color, license plate 2B 5712 along the highway from Lampang Province. Pol Lt Col Cha-on together with a number of police officers waited until that car came along, gave chase and signaled to it to stop at the Kamphaengphet Province intersection.

After searching vainly for a long time, police accidentally unscrewed the head lamps and at the gas tank where police found 60 kgs of well-concealed opium, valued at 10 million baht in Thailand, being transported to Bangkok.

The interrogation and checking of the identification card together with driver's license disclosed the driver's name as Mr Sawat Chatthanchai, 35, residing at house No 260 Group 2, Chompoo Sub-District, Muang District of Lampang Province. The only passenger in the car was Mr Kriangsak Sunthoravej, 38, residing at house No 289 Group 13, Sala Sub-District, Krokpa District of Lampang Province. During the interrogation Mr Kriangsak tried to bargain with the police by claiming to be a younger brother of Mr Samak Sunthoravej, Prachakorn Thai Party Chief, and asked the police not to arrest him by offering a 50,000 baht bribe. The police declined and said, "The police would decline even 500,000 baht. A law-breaker must be arrested." At the time of this reporting, Kriangsak and the opium-loaded car are being taken to Tak Province for legal proceedings.

THAILAND

DETAILS OF ARMED FORCES ADDICTION REVEALED

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 19 Aug 79 pp 1, 16

[A shorter version of this report was published in JPRS L/8671, 20 September 1979, FOUO 40/79, of this series, p 27]

[Text] The Army, with highest number of addicted, leads the Air Force. Both Armed Forces expressed concern over sales points near military zones; military officials have no power of arrest; urged Drug Prevention and Suppression Board to wipe out the retail sellers near the military installations.

At Viengtai Hotel, Col Suchat Sunthornsri, investigation chief of the Army Military Police and Col Sudchit Amphunseng, chief administrator of Air Force Personnel Division discussed the "drug problems in the Army" with the provincial officials from all over the country saying that the majority of the addicts were draftees; that only 1 percent of the officers and noncommissioned officers [as published]. Most of the addicts are on heroin followed by morphine, marijuana, opium and seconal in descending order. Statistics for 1978 revealed that 167 were addicted to heroin, 47 to morphine; 15 to marijuana; 5 to opium and 7 to seconal, making a total of 241.

Col Suchat mentioned that the trading places and "shooting galleries" are all outside the military installations. Sometimes they sneak into traffic in military camps which is a real threat to the Army personnel. The Army has thus adopted the policy to prevent the production and the sale [of drugs] including training subordinates on the drug danger and the punishment therefrom. If an addict is found he will be sent for immediate treatment. As for the regular soldier, if found addicted and incurable within 90 days, he will be discharged as 2d class reservists and will be sent to the police for further legal proceedings. Those who have been cured will be sent to the Center for Military Rehabilitation at Mahidol Military Hospital in Lopburi Province. One major problem is with drug

addicts who live near military installations over whom military authorities have no power of arrest. They therefore request the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Command to wipe out the traffickers near the military installations.

Later, Col Sudchit said that in 1973 drug addiction became an epidemic. The then-Air Force commander set up an "Air Force Drug Prevention and Suppression Commission" led by the Chief of Staff of Air Force Personnel to submit quarterly reports to the Air Force commander. The result is a slowing of the drug epidemic in the air force. At present hereoin is the major problem of the Air Force, then come marijuana, alcohol and amphetamines. As for the addicts, they resemble the Army. Statistics for 1978 show that 60 regular military personnel, 9 warrant officers and 5 workers were addicted. It is anticipated that among the 2d group of regular troops who will enlist in November, there will be approximately 70-80 addicts.

Chief of the 9th Administration Department said that the majority of airmen who serve in the northern, central, and Bangkok Metropolitan areas are likely to be addicted to heroin whereas the majority of those who serve in the northeast rather use marijuana because it is widely grown there. As for the places, where drugs are sold all are outside the military installations. The biggest concern of the Air Force are those regulars who are addicted prior to joining the Air Force. The Air Force rendered advice to the Drug Prevention and Suppression Board and other agencies concerned to seek a solution for those regular troops who will be re-addicted to drugs after being discharged from the armed forces.

9438
CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BANGKOK COURT GIVEN MORE DETAILS OF SYDNEY PROBE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 22 Sep 79 p 23

[Report from Neil Kelly]

[Text]

BANGKOK, Friday.—A Sydney detective told the Criminal Court today how more than \$400,000, believed to be proceeds from drug trafficking, was seized or handed to police in Sydney and Brisbane last October.

Detective-Sergeant Barry Dunn was giving evidence at the resumed trial of footballer Paul Hayward, hairdresser Warren Fellows and bar-owner William Sinclair.

They are accused of attempting to smuggle 8½ kilograms of heroin to Australia.

Sergeant Dunn said police seized \$185,990 from a safe-deposit box in the name of Janet Simon at the Commercial Bank of Australia in George Street, Sydney, on October 12.

Janet Simon was the maiden name of Fellows' wife, he said.

Police went to the bank after searching Fellows' home in Marshall Street, Manly.

The same day police had seized \$39,360 from a house in Henry Street, Sydenham, after watching the street for two weeks.

Arthur Stanley Smith lived at the Henry Street house.

On October 13, police had seized \$90,000 from a safe-deposit box at the ANZ Bank, Marrickville. The box was in the name of joint account-holders — Mrs Irene Murray and Deborah Smith.

The same day, in Brisbane, Graham Jeffs had handed police a bag containing \$120,000.

Jeffs, a security guard who worked for Gregory Sinclair,

son of William Sinclair, said his employer had asked him to look after the money.

Jeffs said that after reading of the arrest of William Sinclair in Bangkok he had decided to hand the money to the police.

Jeffs, in a statement to narcotics officers, said Gregory Sinclair had told him the money had been found at his father's (William Sinclair's) home in Sydney.

Sergeant Dunn said in answer to a question from the judge that he believed all the seized money had been acquired from the sale of drugs, or other illegal activities.

He said he believed the money had come from William Sinclair.

Sergeant Dunn said that when he interviewed Sinclair in prison in Bangkok last December, Sinclair had told him he had received the money from Arthur Stanley Smith, who had asked him to mind it for him.

Sinclair, during the prison interview, had said he believed the money had come from drugs.

Sergeant Dunn had not finished giving evidence when the trial was adjourned until November 12.

He is now flying back to Sydney, but will return to Bangkok in November.

CEO: 5300

THAILAND

MARIHUANA SEIZED, STUDENT ARRESTED

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 18 Jun 79 pp 1, 16

[Text] Suppression police raided and destroyed a source of marihuana exports and seized 2 tons of marihuana bars as evidence worth 2 million baht. Three world-wide marihuana traffickers were arrested along with a third-year Ramkhamhaeng law student. Those arrested have admitted exporting marihuana many times before being caught. The police had to use a 10-wheeled truck to haul away the marihuana for evidence and the four persons arrested to the Suppression Division for prosecution of the case.

At 0700 yesterday (the 17th) Police Maj Roengchai Wannawichit, G-2 of Unit 7, Suppression Division, had learned that house number 29/31 in the Ratana Thani sub-division on the Bang Na-Trat Highway in Bang Keo Township, Bang Phli District, Samutprakan Province, owned by Mr Narong Phungphiriyaphreun, age 34, an employee of the SAL Math Center National Exporting Company with offices on Silom Road in Bangrak Ward, Bangkok, had been a source of world-wide trafficking in marihuana exports for years.

Thus at the date and time mentioned above Police Maj Roengchai along with Police Capt Sukhot Atsawanon, Police Capt Kasem Chai-apha, and Police 1st Lt Thoetsak Chatrakham led a force of 10 additional police officers and went quickly to search Mr Narong Phungphiriyaphreun's house. When the police force arrived at the house they learned that Mr Narong had already gone to his office so Police Maj Roengchai showed the search warrant to Mr Sa-nga Chamroendi, age 40, who was in the house and who signed in acknowledgement.

Then Police Maj Roengchai ordered the police force to split up and search the house. In three bedrooms and a storeroom they discovered 73 galvanized iron boxes containing a white powder covering and disguising the odor of marihuana bars in the boxes. When all the boxes were opened and inspected there were a total of 1,500 kilograms of marihuana bars worth about U.S.\$96,000 if sold in the United States or about 2 million Thai baht. Police Maj Roengchai seized and recorded the marihuana bars as evidence and arrested Mr Sa-nga Chamroendi, Mr Prasit Khottra-asa, age 34, Mrs Sakuntala Khottra-asa, age 40, and Mr Prachak Yaempheng, age 19, a third-year law student at Ramkhamhaeng.

The boxes of marihuana were well packed using white powder to cover and conceal the odor and were prepared for export. On the front of the boxes they were addressed to a Mr Molrol Marshall in the state of Texas in the United States and indicated that the contents were household utensils which were insured for 195,840 baht. They had not yet passed through customs officials at the time they were seized by the police. Mr Sa-nga Chamroendi admitted that marihuana bars had been shipped for sale to the United States many times and the single-story house at that location was the place the goods were packed for export. The police had to use a 10-wheeled truck to haul the marihuana and the four persons arrested to the Suppression Division. They also went looking for Mr Narong, the owner of the house, for further investigation of the case.

8947

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THAI HEROIN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN FRG

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 29 Jun 79 pp 1, 16

[Text] Three Thais have been arrested in Germany carrying heroin wound around their bodies. In Thailand two Americans, shipping heroin out of the country through the mails, have been arrested.

It has been reported that German police officials have arrested three Thai men who travelled there on Thai International flight TG 922. They were arrested at Frankfurt Airport on the morning of 24 June when they were searched and a total of 13.5 kilograms of heroin valued at 11 million baht was found in envelopes wound around their bodies.

The Thai men arrested by German police in this instance were Niphan Mithong, age 23, Prayun Phittanan, age 26, and Somphong Triyen, age 29. They all admitted that they had bought the heroin in Thailand for only 90,000 baht and were taking it to sell in Germany. At any rate prior to the arrest Police Lt Col Anan Yupanon, deputy commander of Unit 7, Suppression Division, and Police Maj Roengchai Wannawichit, G-2 of Unit 7, learned that Thais were going to smuggle narcotics out to sell abroad so they set up searches at Don Muang Airport but none was found. Since they were still certain that there was to be a smuggling attempt they radioed German police to have them make the above arrest.

Also at 0830 on 28 June Police Lt Col Anan Yupanon and Police Maj Roengchai Wannawichit went to arrest Stephen Challdark, age 25, and Daniel Edward Clark, age 29, both Americans, on the third floor of a rented house of Mrs Wanthip Chanrayarak at 14 Asoke Road in Khlong Tan Precinct, Phrakhanong Ward, Bangkok. At the same time they searched and found one bag of white powder type heroin and two tubes of number five heroin worth 2,000 baht as well as a check for nearly 100,000 baht and a request to send more heroin.

During the investigation the two admitted that they had been sending heroin for sale abroad for a long time by inserting it in letters enclosed in double envelopes. However, having lived in Thailand a long time, they said that they had traveled to Malaysia several times and to Hong Kong several

times in order to request renewal of their visas and they had been afraid that upon reentry Thai authorities would detain and interrogate them to find major sources.

Also at 1700 the same day officers of the narcotics suppression office went to search room 02 on the ground floor of the "Thanthong" Apartments in Soi 55 (Soi Kanchanakhom), Phahonyothin Road, Sam Sen Thai Precinct, Phayathai Ward, Bangkok and found four 350 gram bags of Number One and Super brand white powder heroin and three 1-kilogram plastic packages of raw opium worth more than 200,000 baht. However, if it were sold abroad it would be over 100 times more expensive and be worth over 20 million baht. Also found was one plastic press. Somsak Lilitthitham, age 32, the leader, and nine men and women were arrested and held for trial.

8947
CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

HEROIN DEALER ARRESTED--Yesterday afternoon (Aug 8) Pol Lt Col Chalong Chiamsuchon, investigation inspector of Samranrat Police Station together with Pol Sub-Lt Souphisan Sudsun, squad chief and Pol Master Sergeant Seksan Nunkhamchon arrested Mr Prasert Vuthiphutnan, 23 years of age, residing at 224/15 Larnluang Road, Mahanark Sub-District, Pomprab District of Bangkok, a salesman for the payment and credit check division of an electrical firm named, "The Bangkok Union Enterprise" located at Rama I Road, Pathumwan. Upon searching him, police found 30 tubes of heroin wrapped in cigarette cases hidden in his pants pockets. Police also found some coffee straws, razors and heroin in plastic tubes. Mr Prasert and his Suzuki motorcycle Model A100 were turned in to Pol Sub Lt Sathit Charoenphiphop, duty officer, for legal proceedings. As for Mr Prasert, the police had been watching his activities for a long time. Before the arrest, police informants reported that Mr Prasert was going to deliver the heroin to his customer in Moh Lane, Tri thong Street, Wat Rachabophit Sub District of Phranakorn District. So, the police were sent to make an arrest. Other than being a heroin dealer, Prasert is himself an addict. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 9 Aug 79 p 16] 9438

CHIANG RAI DRUG CARAVAN--Reports from military circles revealed that the Border Patrol Police clashed with a Karen caravan at Kosaenchai Village, Mae Chan District of Chiang Rai Province on July 17. The clash resulted in one death and the seizure of 2 kgs of heroin. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 1 Aug 79 p 12] 9438

CHIANG RAI SMUGGLERS--The investigation of Pol Maj Seri Soukbhejara, chief inspector of Vieng Papao District Police Station of Chiang Rai Province revealed that there would be two women buying illegal opium at Huay Muang village, Mae Chedi Sub-District, Vieng Papao District for sale in Phan District of Chiang Rai Province. He [Maj Seri], on 5 August, ordered Pol Master Sergeant Sen Khamchum with other officers to set an ambush at an entrance to the Huay Muang Village. At approximately 0730 hours two women approached where police were hiding, the lead one carrying a rattan basket. The police immediately identified themselves and requested a search. During the search police found that on the top part of the basket

was clothing and miscellaneous items; underneath they found a package wrapped with locally made paper inside of which was a plastic bag containing raw opium weighing 780 grams valued at 7,800 baht. Police arrested the two women and confiscated the opium for physical evidence. The women were later identified as Mrs Nong Maneewan, 40 years of age, residing at house No 350 Group 10, Phan District and Mrs Peng Worsri, 51 years of age, residing at house No 13 Group 14 Phan District, Chiang Rai Province. They were turned over to Pol Lt Praphon Bowon, duty officer, for further proceedings. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 11 Aug 79 pp 7, 10] 9438

HEROIN DEALERS SENTENCED--Yesterday afternoon (the 20th) in Criminal Court prosecutors asked that Mr Charun Romyen (1), Sergeant Phairat Charoenphon (2), and Private Manop Khiansa-at (3), defendants before the criminal court on narcotics charges, be sentenced alleging that during the daytime on 29 October 1976 the defendants had in their possession without authorization heroin worth a total of 36,300 baht. The incident occurred in Bang Kae Precinct, Bangkhuntheuan Ward, Bangkok. The court was also asked to sentence them on this charge. The defendants contested the case claiming that defendant 1 was an undercover agent for the Narcotics Suppression Center and that defendants 2 and 3 were undercover agents for the Samut Sakhon police headquarters. The court examined the evidence and found the defendants guilty and sentenced them each to 20 years in prison. Private Manop, defendant 3, appealed the case. The Court of Appeals reviewed the case in the court of first instance and confirmed its decision. The Court of Appeals rejected the appeal of defendant 3, refusing to hear his case, thereby confirming the decision. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 21 Jun 79 p 16] 8947

MARIHUANA IN RANONG--At 1730 on 21 June Police Capt Chaloem Chapphlan, the suppression chief at the Ranong district police station received a tip from an informant that a merchant had taken a large amount of marihuana and stored it in an abandoned fish drying factory behind the boat docking pier of the Fishing Bridge Organization in Pak Nam Township, Muang District of Ranong. He reported this to the commander and then together with Police Col Chin Phothong, the commander, Police Lt Col Suchin Chinkhlai, the deputy commander, Pol St Sgt Sophon Ratanaka, Pol St Sgt Wimon Na Kao, Pol St Sgt Wirot Khaiman, Pol Sgt Samphan Phosiri, Pol Sgt Sangwian Mikaeo, Pol Pvt Thawichai Chaiyawan, and Pol Pvt Charin Sewikun immediately went to search the place which is a palm roofed and walled factory that fishermen built for drying squid and which has long been abandoned. It is near the Kong Kan Forest on the bank of Khlong Lek. The officers found marihuana pressed into 1,200 5-kilogram bars wrapped in lead foil paper and then in plastic bags. They weighed a total of 6,000 kilograms and are worth not less than 1,800,000 baht. In making the search authorities did not find the owner or a watchman. It is understood that they probably hid upon seeing the authorities. The officers hauled it all away and

turned it over to Police 1st Lt Somphong Rawangthuk, the duty officer at the Ranong district police station. It is believed that this marihuana belonged to a trafficker who brought and hid it there to wait for the proper timing to ship it out on a fishing boat to deliver it to a large vessel at anchor in the middle of the Andaman Sea. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 30 Jun 79 pp 7, 10] 8947

HEROIN SEIZED IN THONBURI--At 1300 yesterday afternoon (25 June) Police Col Amphon Surathin, commander of the Thonburi police station, along with Police Maj Prem Sucharitkul, G-1 of the Thonburi police station and a force of many other officers went to the Southern Bus Station because they had a tip that someone would be bringing heroin to peddle there. The police force set a trap to capture them and at 1400 three men walked in acting suspiciously. The police force asked them to come in and be searched and discovered 60 tubes of number one heroin worth 600,000 baht hidden in front of their abdomens a little above their sex organs. Through interrogation it was learned that the three men were Mr Somchai Iamsawat, age 20, of number 33 village 5, Pho Phra Township, Muang District, Phetburi Province, Mr Wichit Thapthim, age 17, of number 147/1 Muang Township, Muang District, Phetburi Province, and Mr Somsak Phansong, age 26, of no house number, Muang District, Phetburi Province. All three men are students of Professor Raem who is well known as primarily a teacher of gun hands in Phetburi. They were sent to the Bangkok Noi station for prosecution on charges of possession of narcotics for distribution. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 26 Jun 79 p 16] 8947

ITALIANS ARRESTED IN CHIANG MAI--Police Col Kuson Nakkhasichum, deputy commander for suppression of the Northern Region Narcotics Suppression Center, learned that two foreigners would be carrying heroin from Chiang Mai to Bangkok via a Chiang Mai-Bangkok line bus. After that they would be taking it and selling it abroad. After confirming this information at 2000 on 17 June Police Col Kuson, Police Lt Col Niran Withayawuthikun, deputy commander of Chiang Mai police, and Police 1st Lt Phatphong Khatiyasurin led a police force to stake out the Chiang Mai-Bangkok bus station. Two foreigners entered the bus station carrying suit cases and police officers asked them to come in for inspection of their luggage. Upon opening the luggage officers noticed a radio-type player. When they inspected it they found four bags of number four white heroin there and in two film canisters so they arrested the men and turned them over to Police 1st Lt Pricha Chamnianwai, the duty officer at the Chiang Mai district police station. The two foreigners are Mr Shipprins Cherko, age 26, and Mr Chichi Luciano, age 26, both Italian tourists. Under interrogation both men said that they had bought the heroin from a merchant in Chiang Mai Province for 60,000 baht and if they were to sell it in their country it would fetch about 12,000,000 baht. The merchant had delivered it to them on 16 June and they were taking it to their country when they were arrested by the police. [Text] [Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 22 Jun 79 pp 7, 14] 8947

WEAPONS, DRUGS IN CHIANG MAI--Chiang Mai municipal police learned that weapons of war were being kept and narcotics were being hidden at house number 31 Thipnet Road, Hai Ya Township, Muang District, Chiang Mai. This house belongs to Mr Phibun Sunya, age 38, who is jailkeeper of the Chiang Mai central jail. At 1600 on 26 June 1979 Police Capt Suwit Thammawong, chief of the rapid reaction force, and a number of police officers went to the house with a search warrant issued by Police Lt Col Chan Khamwan, deputy commander of police in Chiang Mai. Mrs Mukda Sunya, age 32, wife of Mr Phibun, was home alone. The search by the police officers turned up two .38 caliber guns and 20 rounds of ammunition, one 9 mm pistol, and one rifle with 17 rounds of ammunition plus three heroin sacks with heroin residue stuck to them, 59 tubes of heroin weighing 20 grams each, and one package of opium concentrate weighing 30 grams. Mrs Mukda denied any knowledge of these things saying that they all belonged to her husband who had left the house before the officers arrived. The police officers took Mrs Mukda into custody and turned her over to Police 1st Lt Phayung Chinachit, the officer in charge of investigations for Muang District, Chiang Mai, charging her with possession of unauthorized guns and ammunition and possession of narcotics for distribution. [Text] [Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 2 Jul 79 pp 7, 12] 8947

HEROIN SEIZED IN BANGKOK--A heroin trading gang delivering heroin from the north to an agent who was to take it and sell it in the south were arrested by police at a mid-city rendezvous. Police seized heroin worth millions of baht. Police Maj Gen Phao Sarasin, secretary of the Police Department's Narcotics Suppression Center, learned that a heroin trafficking gang would be bringing heroin from the north to deliver to a major agent in Bangkok to be transported to the south for sale, so he ordered officials of the center out to investigate in order to capture the gang. Officials subsequently learned that the gang had scheduled a rendezvous to turn over the goods in the vicinity of Talad Noi on Charoen Krung Road in Samphanthawong District so they made plans to make arrests. At 0700 yesterday (the 12th) officers rushed into Talad Noi to arrest the gang but it turned out that they had already completed the heroin transfer and left. At about that time they came across a man who was later identified as Mr Somchai Eksakunbanthit, age 26, of 578/42 Charoen Krung Road, Bukkhlo Precinct, Thonburi Ward, who was carrying a large, suspicious-looking, paper package. He was detained for investigation and a search turned up 30 packages of heroin weighing 1,456 grams with a value of 150,000 baht in Thailand and several million baht abroad. Mr Somchai admitted that he had come as the representative of his father, Mr Thian Hing sae Ngow, age 55, to receive goods from Mr Pricha Lilakitwimon, AKA Pw or Lim, age 55. Police officers arrested Mr Thian Hing at his home and arrested Mr Pricha and his wife, Mrs Sawimon, age 46, at their home at 767/24 Loecha Lane, Phakonyothim Road, Phaya Thai Ward. All of the persons arrested and the physical evidence are being held pending disposition of the case. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 13 Jun 79 pp 1, 2] 8947

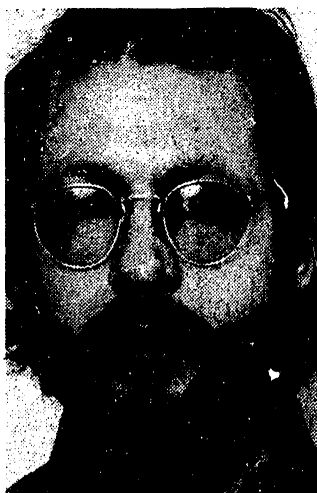
CSO: 5300

CANADA

COCAINE FROM PERU SEIZED IN MONTREAL

Montreal LA PRESSE in French 23 Oct 79 pp 1, 6

[Text] Donald McCrae, a 32-year-old Montrealer, was arrested late yesterday afternoon by the police of the CUM [Montreal Urban Community] and will have to answer today to an accusation of possession of cocaine for trafficking. The drug is valued at one million dollars. This is the largest seizure of its kind made in Montreal. McCrae had been shadowed by the sleuths for more than two months. Yesterday, having arrived from Peru, he was arrested at the intersection of Saint-Jacques and Saint-Antoine streets. The cocaine was destined for the drug addicts of Old Montreal. Another arrest in this case is expected today. The police say, however, that McCrae did not belong to an organized smuggling ring. He concealed the drug under his shirt.



Donald McCrae

CSO: 5300

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CANADA

BRIEFS

MONTREAL COCAINE SEIZURE--Police of the alcohol and morals regional squad of the SQ [Quebec Police Force] in Montreal yesterday seized two kilograms of pure cocaine at 1434 Everett. This drug, valued at 2.7 million dollars on the black market, was to be sold in the territory of the CUM [Montreal Urban Community]. Three Colombians--Harold Humberto Ortiz, 40 years old, Diego Ortiz, 29 years old, and Marilla Fernandez, 27 years old--have been arrested in connection with this affair. The police seized two false-bottomed suitcases at the residence of the trio, as well as a scale.
[Text] [Montreal LA PRESSE in French 3 Nov 79 p A 17]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MORE U.S. AID SOUGHT TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFIC

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 Sep 79 p 2

[Article by Carlos J. Gonzalez: "Effective United States Aid Against Drug Trafficking Requested by Colombia"]

[Text] Colombia's attorney-general, Dr Guillermo Gonzalez Charry, stated yesterday [24 September 1979] that Colombia is not satisfied with the assistance which the United States is now giving it to fight the drug traffic and he added that the United States has to determine whether the problem is to be tackled with the seriousness that it requires. There is no justification for the large effort being made by Colombia and the small effort made by the United States.

The senior official made the above statement at a round-table conference which important United States officials now visiting Colombia also attended. Among them was the governor of Florida, Dr Robert Graham, and Senator Ed Dum [sic --probably Florida State Senator Edgar Dunn]. The visitors were in the library of the Colombian Senate accompanied by the U.S. ambassador in Colombia, Dr Diego Asencio.

Charges Rejected

Both ambassador Diego Asencio and Florida's Governor Robert Graham emphatically rejected the charges brought against the United States by Dr Hector Echeverri Correa while they categorically asserted that contrary to the belief of the president of the Colombian Senate drugs indeed caused great harm to their users.

Echeverri Correa Speaks

Following the customary welcome to the visitors and the reference to the large-scale tourist traffic to Florida by Colombians, Dr Echeverri Correa held that ships arrive in Colombia from the United States bringing "dollars, valium, and all kinds of tranquilizers, weapons, and individuals who come to engage in a business which is not compatible with the welfare of the majority of the people of their country and ours. These ships," he added, "return to the United States loaded with marihuana and cocaine."

He held that the United States citizens implicated in unlawful businesses "amuse themselves by bribing our authorities," stimulating our domestic consumption of drugs, and constantly exporting more marihuana to the United States.

He asserted later that the stepped-up security along the northern coast of Colombia has succeeded solely in raising the price of narcotics without reducing their consumption in the United States.

Large Investments

The president of the Colombian Senate noted that because of its friendship with the United States Colombia finds itself obliged to invest large amounts in trying to solve the problem of narcotics. Let us consider, he said, that it becomes more than necessary for other poor Latin American countries to have to suffer the demoralization of their authorities, of their peasants, and of their people in general because of a problem which originates as we have seen "within your country from where you export immorality and vice to us."

Proposals

The president of the Colombian Senate once again reiterated his proposal that the United States "purchase" their production of marihuana and cocaine from the Andean countries. The income, he added, can be channeled to fight the drug traffic and directed to activities that benefit one country and another--as for example, sowing fuel-producing crops, instead.

"It seems criminal to me," Echeverri Correa noted, "that a country like ours should be obliged to waste twice the equivalent of its budget and also, under pressure, be accused of crimes without getting anything out of it."

Governor of Florida Speaks

On his part the governor of Florida, Dr Robert Graham, in his speech rejected the charges of the president of the Colombian Senate and noted that "I don't believe that the process of discussion is improved by mutual charges between our countries. One should not confuse existing freedom of the press and speech with verbal permissiveness which can harm us."

He maintained that the drug traffic is a problem which preoccupies both countries and on which the state of Florida is placing special stress.

Increase in Crime

Governor Graham held that the drug traffic has many implications and that the use of narcotics is sufficiently harmful for the user's health as well as for the unity of the family.

He added that because of narcotics murders and kidnappings have increased and that this situation is prejudicial to both countries.

The Governor of Florida commended the task which the military forces are fulfilling and recognized the major effort which Colombia has deployed to control the drug traffic.

Legal Reform

Governor Graham said that in the United States legal responsibility is divided between the national government and the state governments. In Florida, he added, major efforts are being made to fight the drug traffic.

Through legal reform, the governor added, penalties have been increased in Florida and thus whoever is arrested for drug trafficking can be sent to jail for 25 years. In addition, the defendant is subject to a fine.

Assistance to Colombia

The American official held that thanks to the plans to fight the drug traffic the United States is in a position to provide special assistance to some areas of Colombia and for this reason his group would make representations regarding the problems faced by said regions before the United States Government in Washington.

Governor Graham hailed the memory of the Liberator, Simon Bolivar, and noted that he, Bolivar, has served as an example of struggles to enhance human dignity. Let us hope that our generation can do likewise, he added.

Rejected Echeverri's Proposal

On his part the United States ambassador in Colombia, Dr Diego Asencio, noted that the proposal relating to the establishment of an organ dealing with drugs could be feasible under certain conditions--as for example, by trying to institute control (as is being done) in the production of cocaine in the Andean regions.

Nevertheless, the diplomat said, "I do not think that it is feasible as it relates to marihuana given that this is a very profitable crop which grows in all kinds of terrain. To do something like this would be to promote its production.

Refuting the argument of Dr Echeverri Correa, ambassador Diego Asencio held that marihuana is indeed harmful for the user's health despite the fact that some scientists maintain otherwise.

Eduardo Abuchaibe Speaks

On his part Colombian Senator Eduardo Abuchaibe noted that the drug traffic

has converted La Guajira region into a "sea of blood" given that in a single year about 500 murders have been noted there.

He said that any product which creates condition of mental addiction has to be opposed because all countries, within different frameworks according to their development, have the ascertained duty to seek the individual's happiness.

He complained about how a country like the United States which has the most advanced equipment available for the defense of its territory tolerates the daily landings of planes loaded with marihuana and cocaine.

The Attorney-General Speaks

Colombia's attorney-general, Dr Guillermo Gonzalez Charry, on his part, held that "we have insisted on attacking an evil which will not be solved in this way. It is necessary," he added, "to seek new solutions of a practical nature and to determine at what point the system breaks down."

He noted that there is no balance between the forces used by Colombia to fight the drug traffic and those of the United States. He added that there is a need for a balance of forces and he recalled that all of Colombia's resources have been assigned to La Guajira region.

The attorney-general said that the problem is serious for both countries and that everything must be done to end the drug traffic in order to save the youth.

He noted that it is also necessary to determine whether the problem will be treated with the seriousness that is required. "We do not view with approval the assistance of the United States because larger resources would have had more success in dealing with the problem," he said.

The two countries have to commit equal resources to the struggle against drug trafficking, Dr Gonzalez Charry noted.

Florida State Senator Edgar Dunn also spoke at the round-table conference.

2662
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

COCAINE, MARIHUANA SEIZED IN THREE RAIDS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Oct 79 p 6-A

[Article: "14,000 Grams of Cocaine and 54 Kg of Marihuana Seized at Eldorado Airport"]

[Text] In three different instances and in less than 48 hours the criminal branch of the public prosecutor's office at Eldorado airport seized more than 14,000 grams of cocaine contained in a single suitcase and approximately 45 kg of pressed marihuana in six suitcases on their way to Brussels and Lisbon.

The first case occurred last Monday [1 October 1979] when secret agents of the public prosecutor's office discovered four suitcases containing 32 kg of pressed marihuana hidden between false bottoms. The grass was destined for Brussels and those responsible for it fled.

It was found in this first case that the traffickers or "mules" were women considering that the suitcases contained female clothing.

The second case, the most spectacular, occurred yesterday morning [2 October 1979] when five packages looking like cheese and containing more than 14,000 grams of cocaine, that is, more than 14 kg were discovered.

The authorities said that in this case it seems that a strike unprecedented at the airports of the world was involved since, according to the evidence at hand, such a large drug find in a single suitcase had never been witnessed.

In this case the owner of the suitcase disappeared as soon as suspicion arose that the authorities had discovered the shipment.

The cocaine arrived on flight 908 of Braniff International originating in Lima and Quito, and the authorities presume that it was subsequently destined to be shipped to the United States. In this case, too, the conclusion was reached that the "mule" was a woman given that the suitcase also contained female clothing.

The cocaine was divided into five plastic packages lined with adhesive tape the color of a Havana cigar in the shape of cheeses with one exception, which was square.

The quantity and grades of purity involved suggest that the narcotics could be worth the equivalent of 16 million Colombian pesos on the international market.

In the third case the officials of the public prosecutor's office seized two suitcases at 1530 hours yesterday afternoon destined for Lisbon. They contained 14 kg of marihuana, also pressed, hidden in the false bottoms of the two suitcases.

In this case a woman, who was taken to jail yesterday evening, was arrested.

The criminal branch of the public prosecutor's office at Eldorado airport said that the final analyses of the cocaine will be performed in the narcotics laboratories of the department of legal medicine.

The accused female who was arrested in the third case is a middle-class woman whose identity was not disclosed by the authorities in order not to impede the investigations.

It is appropriate to note that in a general way the marihuana seized at Eldorado airport is destined for Europe whereas cocaine originates from the south and generally when it leaves Colombia it is forwarded to the United States.

In the case of the cocaine the shipment was not hidden in false bottoms but rather the five packages were found strewn among the feminine clothing items.

The authorities noted that they already have sufficient clues to initiate a search for the minor ringleaders who arranged for the transportation of the impounded cargoes.

Generally, the drug traffickers are among the last to go through the customs where the inspection takes place.

Spokesmen of the public prosecutor's office said that the device of using false bottoms in suitcases for the transportation of marihuana is old and in the case of the two seized suitcases the detectives in charge averred that the make-believe had been very well planned.

With these three strikes and other recent ones which this newspaper has reported, it seems that the narcotics traffic through Eldorado airport has increased significantly but also that the secret law-enforcement agencies of the government have improved notably their methods of checking the traffic.



Cocaine and pressed marihuana seized at Eldorado airport.

2662
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

COCAINE SEIZED, TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Cocaine Seized in Bogota

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 2 Oct 79 p 11-A

[Text] Some 5 kg of highly pure cocaine were seized at a home in northern Bogota where additionally five individuals were captured and a very-late model automobile was impounded as was a revolver with a lot of ammunition for the handgun.

The strike against the drug trafficking criminals was made by agents of the high command's F-2 force after a series of investigations which had been under way for several days before the arrests.

The individuals arrested gave their names as Efrain William Segura Toro, Jose Dubal Ortiz Cortes, Jose Maribel Jimenez, Leon Pena Henao, and Luz Marina Colmenares Quinche.

A spokesman of the secret agency indicated that inside the residence identified as 13-61 73rd Street where the drugs were seized was a Dodge Alpine automobile which, according to reports of the F-2, served to transport the narcotics. A late-model revolver with a large amount of ammunition was also seized.

The individuals arrested together with the evidence were placed, also yesterday [1 October 1979], under the jurisdiction of a criminal investigations magistrate who will continue the appropriate investigation.

Photograph of Suspects, Evidence

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Oct 79 p 5-D

[Text]



Drug traffickers: The F-2 agency seized in northern Bogota 5 kg of cocaine, one automobile, one firearm, and other evidence from Efrain William Segura Toro, Jose Duvan [sic--? Dubal] Ortiz Cortes, and Jose Marivel [sic--? Maribel] Jimenez appearing in the photograph above. Also arrested were Leon Pena Henao and Luz Marina Colmenares Quince [sic--? Quinche].

2662

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

ATTEMPT TO BURN COCAINE FAILS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Sep 79 p 15-D

[Article: "The Burning of 800 kg of Cocaine Was Unsuccessful"]

[Text] Officials of the F-2 force, the public prosecutor's office, and the department of legal medicine faced a setback yesterday [13 September 1979] when they tried to destroy by burning 800 kg of cocaine which were recently seized in Bogota.

According to official reports, the specimens of narcotics set on fire were not consumed by it and the residues of same revealed that when they cooled the cocaine crystals solidified once again.

With the failure of the incineration process, the parties involved in the destruction of the largest cocaine shipment in the world seized in Colombia's capital decided that the drug should be dissolved in water.

For that purpose an effort started--also yesterday--to destroy the drug in large plastic containers whose content of water and cocaine will be "interred" in special ditches in order to avoid contaminating further the already polluted Bogota River by pouring the residue down the drain.

Given the enormous quantity of cocaine and the stringency of the legal requirements, it is figured that the effort to dissolve the drug will continue until next Tuesday [18 September 1979].

Taking part in supervising the weighing, analysis, and destruction of samples of cocaine are the following: Judge 70 of the criminal investigation department, Ivan Almanza Latorre, assigned especially to this investigation; Zoraida Roza, delegate of the national public prosecutor's office; officials from the department of legal medicine; and the national commander of the F-2, Col Miguel Maza Marquez.

In addition, it was learned that the investigating magistrate, once progress had been made in the destruction of the drugs, will hear the incriminating evidence against the 20 individuals arrested in the course of the probe ending with the enormous drug seizure.

As is known, among those arrested are two foreigners--Carlos Humberto Naranjo Lopez and Arturo Contreras Bullemore--accused of being the international connections for the distribution of cocaine processed in Bogota.

More Cocaine

In the meantime, agents of the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] seized 3 1/2 kg of cocaine on the Bogota-Villavicencio road.

The drug was transported in a private automobile and a man and woman in it were arrested for it. Their names were not disclosed.

2662

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

HELICOPTERS USED TO DESTROY MARIHUANA

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 20 Sep 79 p10-A

/Text/ Mazatlan, Sin. 19 September--The office of the attorney-general of the Republic is carrying out the destruction of marihuana and poppy plantings throughout the Sinaloa area with 10 helicopters, of which 5 are adapted for spraying herbicide, and the rest fill a support function, with armed personnel to respond to and protect against any aggression.

The action of the helicopters began 10 days ago, but was not announced, to prevent the marihuana planters and cultivators from taking measures against them.

The office of the commander of the Federal Judicial Police stated unofficially that more than 400 plantings were destroyed in the last 10 days.

The increase of cultivation in the mountain area of the southern part of the state began after the rainy season, when the drug traffickers started the scheduled planting in the most remote parts of the mountains. According to unofficial estimates more than 120 hectares planted with drugs and poppies have been destroyed during the last 10 days.

8131
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

SIX KILLED IN SHOOTOUT WITH TRAFFICKERS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Sep 79 p30-A

/Article by Andres Vela P., EXCELSIOR correspondent/

/Text/ Chihuahua, Chih., 20 September--In an exchange of gunfire between agents of the Federal Judicial Police and drug traffickers, five criminals and a policeman were killed, and three other detectives were seriously wounded.

The events occurred at 1000 hours in Calle 31, number 2305, Altavista settlement in the northern part of the city, the home of the girlfriend of one of the drug traffickers.

The federal agent killed was Claudio Saldana; those wounded were: Guillermo Salazar, Javier Herrera and German Gutierrez.

The drug traffickers who were killed were: Roque Bojorquez, Oscar N. and Marcial, Cutberto and Ramon Ramos Juanquis, natives of Culiacan, Sinaloa.

Rafaela Acosta, who lived with Marcial, was arrested.

The shootout occurred when six agents tried to arrest Roque Bojorquez, who escaped from the Ciudad Juarez penitentiary last January.

They followed him to the home of Rafaela, where they found the other criminals.

Federal Public Ministry agent Antonio Quezada Fornelli said that they found high powered weapons.

8131

CSO: 5300

MEXICO

THREE COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 23 Sep 79 p12-A

/Text/ The Federal Judicial Police have arrested a man and two women, foreigners, in the Mexico City international airport, where they were selling cocaine.

The federal agents also confiscated merchandise which had been illegally brought into the country from the arrested persons.

Martha Chevereaux, Angela Careto and Rene Agimann, who were identified by their passports as coming from Italy, were carrying with them 70 grams of cocaine and goods from that country, which they were selling in the airport.

When the Federal Judicial agents arrested them, they had in their possession tickets from the Alitalia company which, according to the reports of some passengers coming from Italy, had been stolen, it was reported by federal authorities at the airport.

They were arrested last Friday night, were taken to Federal Judicial Police cells, and yesterday federal agents presented them at the Federal Public Ministry.

8131
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

BRIEFS

CLASH IN SAN BALTASAR--Mexico City, 11 Oct (EFE)--A judiciary branch agent was killed today during a shootout between the police and a band of narcotics traffickers in San Baltasar, it was reported here today. The police reported that several members of the band were wounded in the clash. However, they fled to the Oaxaca hills. The band had been using San Baltasar as their operations center. They even had a secret landing strip and from there they had supplied narcotics to international bands. The shooting fray occurred when judiciary officials, arriving in San Baltasar to arrest the band, were attacked by them with heavy caliber fire. The narcotics traffickers who belong to one of the most powerful bands in the area, are being pursued into the Oaxaca hills, 510 km southeast of this capital, with the aid of helicopters. [Text] [PA132123 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0620 GMT 12 Oct 79 PA]

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The Federal Judicial Police arrested two "polleros" as they were illegally bringing five persons into the United States, a smuggler of wines and weapons, and three drug traffickers, from whom they confiscated a quantity of cocaine. Margarito Mendez Rico, second commandant of the Federal Judicial Police in Guadalajara, Jalisco, reported that his agents arrested Salvador Ortega Zamarripa there with various amounts of pure cocaine. When arrested, Perez [as published] was accompanied by Raul Aguilar Rodriguez. He was detained, as well as his companion. A 9 mm. sub-machine gun and a 45 caliber pistol were taken from them, as well as 25 grams of cocaine. [Excerpts] [Mexico City El Sol De Mexico in Spanish 20 Sep 79 p 10-A/ 8131]

CSO: 5300

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

DEATH PENALTY STUDIED--The revolution has other enemies besides Somozists. Drug traffickers are also enemies of the revolution. Commander Tomas Borge discussed this important topic. He also discussed police department operations. As we have seen the police protect our people everywhere. However, it is also ready to spot and repress the revolution's enemies. The revolution has other enemies besides Somozists. All those who are not following good conduct are enemies of the revolution. There is one subject I want to stress to our companeros in the police department. This is the drug problem. There must be proper and humane treatment of drug addicts, and we must deal harshly, very harshly with drug traffickers. There is no death penalty in Nicaragua, but we are seriously thinking of establishing death penalty exclusively for drug traffickers. We must also deal harshly with drunk drivers. We must be harsh with those who are drinking liquor during working hours, squandering what little we have and neglecting their families. Our Sandinist national police must be, above all, watchful over public morale. [Excerpts] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 7 Nov 79 PA]

CSO: 5300

PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKER ARRESTED--The Lima Police have arrested (Francisca Soto), 43, for carrying 3.4 kilograms of cocaine base. [PY132336 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 79 PY]

CSO: 5300

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HASHISH SALE RING--Gaza (Itim)--Eight Gaza men were sentenced yesterday to jail sentences and heavy fines in the wake of one of the largest drug cases ever uncovered in the area. The eight received sentences ranging from 15 months in jail to six years and a IL200,000 fine, for drug trafficking activities that were discovered in August 1978. At the time, three Gaza fishermen discovered 58 sacks of hashish, each weighing 200 grammes, floating off the Gaza coast in an inner tube. The three brought the hashish to a Gaza cafe owner, who in turn sold it along with two accomplices for IL30,000 to another man. Police intelligence uncovered the ring when an eighth man was offered the cannabis extract, for IL160,000. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Oct 79 p 3]

CSO: 5300

AUSTRIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED--In September, Vienna police seized 50 grams of cocaine in various hiding places at the home of August G. who confessed to having imported more than 100 grams of cocaine worth \$500 from a holiday in Bolivia and having sold part of it afterwards for 1,000 schillings per gram. [Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German 4 Oct 79 p 5 AU]

CSO: 5300

GREECE

TOURISTS BLAMED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek 19 Sep 79 p 4

[Text] One of the problems that has been created in Greek society by the large increase of tourists in the "free" entry of foreign addicts to Greece and the smuggling and use of narcotics.

In their efforts to confront the problem of narcotics, the police authorities have organized lectures, speeches, etc, in the capital and in the provincial centers, in which they emphasize the destructive effects of drugs to humans.

We do not know who attended these lectures and speeches.

We are, however, certain that they were not attended by all the low-level officers of the police services, especially those who serve in points far from the big cities where, however, the foreign addicts and narcotics s smugglers are very active.

In Greece, the law against the smuggling and use of narcotics is very strict. This law, however, is limited to exhausting its strictness to proven cases and does not provide any facility or any security to those who would try to investigate information or a charge on smuggling or narcotics use.

So today, many lower-level police officers "fortify themselves" with this limitation and do not always investigate charges or information.

Unfortunately, this last point is a reality. We are aware of a specific instance which happened a few days ago at a seaside village of a large island of one of the Cyclade islands that is one of the most popular for Greeks and foreign tourists.

One night in this village, a young German woman who was under the influence of drugs caused damage to someone else's property.

She was arrested by the local gendarmerie, was held under detention until the next day and was released for no apparent reasons.

The same night, the German woman took drugs again and under their influence caused even greater damages. Actually, she damaged two privately owned automobiles, etc.

She was arrested again. While everyone expected that the gendarmerie of the village would pursue the matter, they were surprised to find out that the gendarmerie notified her father, who was located in another island. The father came to the seaside village right away and after paying for the damages, took his daughter and left by helicopter.

The gendarmerie did not investigate to see how the German woman got into such a condition, with whom she had been in contact, since they would surely know something.

We do not know why the gendarmerie of the island avoided the investigation of this matter.

We do know that if it did investigate, it could have gathered valuable information on this case on individuals and other things.

But the chief of the gendarmerie station of this seaside village did not have time to spend on such details, such as smuggling and narcotics use. Obviously, the man had very important things to attend to, such as traffic violations. . .

So he was indifferent to charges on narcotics use, orgy dens, etc, despite the fact that the charges had almost . . . reached a "meat and bones" form.

Who can say that similar incidents have not taken place elsewhere? If we consider that from time to time there are arrests in many places of foreigners or Greeks for narcotics use, we become certain that the case we mentioned is not unique but widespread and one of many that for various reasons are covered up.

Let us then close, with the question of why the Ministry of Public Order did not bother to pursue the matter...

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CSO: 5300

TURKEY

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZED--Some 107 kilos of opium have been seized in a truck passing from Iran to Turkey through the Gurbulak border crossing in Agri. Officials reported that the driver of the truck managed to escape in the confusion and that an investigation into the incident is underway.
[TA022110 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 2 Nov 79 TA]

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END